

Spectrum



Photos by Tammy Moehlman

Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Clark, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon command sergeant major, sits with a group of Freedom Park Elementary School students during a lively pep rally April 18.

Pepping kids up for tests military style

Tammy Moehlman
Signal staff

Testing is a stressful part of school for kids.

The Fort Gordon community came together April 18 to help Freedom Park Elementary School students relax and prepare for the upcoming Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests with a military theme pep rally.

"Today is about the education of America's youth," said Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Clark, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon command sergeant major. "Fort Gordon is proud to work with all the schools in the area."

Clark led the pep rally



with a cadence to get the students excited about their studies. The students' voices cheered in unison;

"study hard, Freedom Park" when Clark blew a whistle once then twice to cue them.

The military theme of the pep rally is a way of recognizing the students' military Family life. The teachers wore camouflage T-shirts that read "Got freedom...Thank a Soldier." It was Freedom Park Elementary School principal, Rita Bradley, who took her attire a step farther by appearing in full battle wear from helmet to boots.

Bradley attributes the success of the rally to the wonderful support of Beth Foley, wife of Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Foley, U.S. Army

Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general, and Martha Capps, wife of Joe Capps, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon deputy commanding general, as well as the Soldiers in the Audie Murphy Club and the Signal Band Jazz Ensemble who helped bring the extra spirit to get the students motivated and excited.

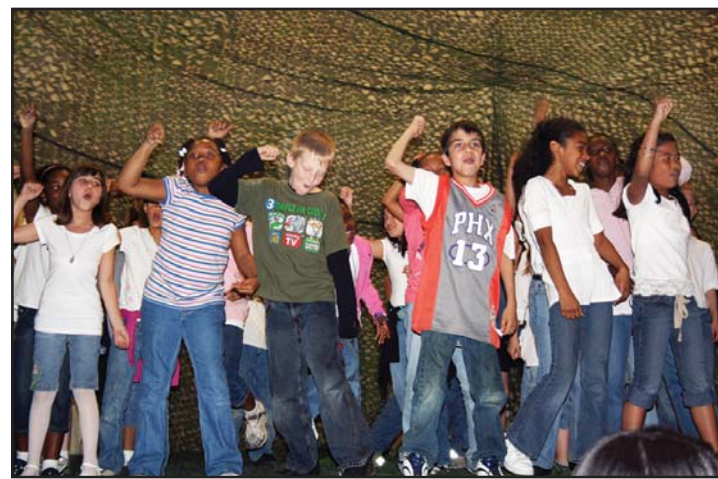
"Since General Foley arrived, our school has received so much more attention. If General Foley can not be here there is always someone here representing him," says Bradley. "He has really made a huge difference."



Freedom Park Elementary School kindergarten teacher, Jennifer Burch, leads a group of third grade girls in a cheer during the pep rally.



Freedom Park Elementary School principal, Rita Bradley, joins (right) Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Clark, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon command sergeant major, on the gymnasium stage during a school pep rally to get the kids excited about their upcoming tests.



Third graders at Freedom Park Elementary School on Fort Gordon perform a lively song during a pre-testing pep rally held April 18 in the school gymnasium.



1st Sgt. Sheldon Moorner, Audie Murphy Club member, motivates first graders during a cheer.



Freedom Park Elementary School kindergarten teacher, Joy Ricketts, cheers with her students during a pep rally.



Kindergarteners at Freedom Park Elementary School on Fort Gordon applaud after a performance by third grade students during a pep rally held April 18 in the school gymnasium.